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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In late June 1954, the East German Council of Ministers finally approved the draft of a government decree concerning the official establishment of Arbeitskreise (Work Circles). A short time later, this decree appeared in the East German Government Gazette under the title "Verordnung zur Bildung zentraler Arbeitskreise fuer Forschung und Technik" (Government Order Establishing Central Arbeitskreise for Research and Technology). The decision of the Council of Ministers was reached after strong opposition by Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry, was overruled.
 2. The decree defines the authority of the ministries and the Central Office of Research and Technology (Zentralamt fuer Forschung und Technik) (ZAFT) as follows:
 - a. If a Working Circle is composed of representatives of key industries which are all under the jurisdiction of one ministry, the Working Circle is also under the administrative authority of that ministry.
 - b. If a Working Circle is composed of representatives of industries which fall under various ministries (Querschnittcharakter - cross section type), the Working Circle is placed under the authority of ZAFT. Furthermore, all Working Circles made up of representatives of industries which have not been specifically designated as key industries are also placed under ZAFT's jurisdiction.
 3. The administrative authority of the ministries and ZAFT over the Working Circles includes the appointment of members to the Working Circles and preparations for the sessions of the Working Circles. The members of Working Circles which fall under category a in paragraph 2 above are appointed by the respective ministry, those under category b, by ZAFT. In both cases, however, mutual cooperation must be exercised; appointments made by the ministries must be cleared with ZAFT, and vice versa. This procedure also applies to reports prepared by the Working Circles; copies of all reports must be forwarded to both authorities.

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4. All Working Circles must be registered with ZAFT regardless of category. The present decree differs from the original version in that it states that all members of a Working Circle, with the exception of the head, are to be appointed by the supervising authority (a ministry or ZAFT). The head, deputy head, and secretary of a Working Circle are elected by the members of the group; they must be members of the group.
5. Acceptance of appointments to membership in a Working Circle is mandatory. In this respect, the Working Circles as defined in the present decree differ from the Working Circles of the Kammer der Technik (Chamber of Technology) which have nothing to do with the industrial groups and in which membership is voluntary.
6. Working Circles are to be established in every field of production, research (including some fields of pure research), and development in East Germany. At the present time, ZAFT and the Ministry for Machine Construction (Ministerium fuer Maschinenbau) are planning a number of new Working Circles in the field of machine construction. Some of the Working Circles which were founded prior to the decree of June 1954 are either to be abolished or reorganized under new names.

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